Acacia Miscellany 2. Species related to A. deltoidea (Leguminosae: Mimosoideae: Section Plurinerves) from Western Australia

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Abstract

Cowan, R.S. & B.R. Maslin. Acacia Miscellany — 2. Species related to A. deltoidea (Leguminosae: Mimosoideae: Section Plurinerves) from Western Australia. Nuytsia 7(2): 201-208 (1990). In addition to a key to distinguish the taxa, two of which are new (A. vincentii and A. deltoidea subsp. ampla), a new combination under Acacia of Racosperma adenogonia Pedley is effected.

Introduction

This group of species was treated by Pedley (1987) in a well-illustrated and well-documented review, so a further publication on the alliance so soon after Pedley's might appear redundant. The purpose of this paper, however, is to provide names for two new taxa in the group and to make available one of Pedley's names under *Acacia*; he treated the group as taxa of *Racosperma*, a course we are not yet prepared to follow. Because full, detailed descriptions are available in his paper, it is principally the new taxa that are described below; *A. deltoidea* is described in full because we have extracted from typical *A. deltoidea* a new species and a new subspecies whose character states alter Pedley's circumscription to some extent. *Acacia adenogonia* is described fully in order to take into account several additional collections beyond those cited by Pedley.

The taxa of this group are a close-knit assemblage with the possible exception of *A. sublanata* which differs in several respects from the other taxa comprising the group. All are from the north tropical and subtropical zones in the Kimberley region of Western Australia and in the Northern Territory.

There is a superficial resemblance of this group of taxa to *A. adnata* F. Muell, and *A. comans* W. Fitzg. in the *A. latipes* alliance, which differs from the *A. deltoidea* group by the presence of basal peduncular bracts, separate lateral stipules, and by the lack of a bract on the peduncle above the base. In form of the phyllodes there is also a superficial similarity to the uninerved, triangular phyllodes of some *Phyllodineae*, such as those of Maslin's "*A. biflora* group" (1978). Pedley

(1978) included A. pravifolia F. Muell, and A. amblygona Cunn. ex Benth. with the A. deltoidea group as "the Triangulares group of Acacia section Plurinerves" and there is more than a passing resemblance between these species and the A. deltoidea group. Both species, however, have separate, lateral stipules, a bract subtending the base of the peduncles which are otherwise ebraeteate, the heads are few-flowered and the bracteoles are of very different structure and texture than those of the present group.

The A. deltoidea group is characterized by (1) small, inequilateral, pungent, sessile or sub-sessile phyllodes; (2) upwardly eurving pairs of often partly connate (except A. sublanata and A. froggattii), persistent, subulate or acicular stipules located on the abaxial side of the phyllode base (except A. sublanata and A. froggattii), rather than laterally as in most species of Acacia; (3) all but A. sublanata have at least some of the hairs gland-tipped; (4) the peduncles are solitary, lacking a bract at their base but occasionally bearing one above their middle; (5) sepals and/or petals are partly united among themselves; and (6), most strikingly, some of the species have the staminal filaments united, up to one-fifth their length in A. stipulosa and basally in irregular fascicles in A. adengonia. Such union of filaments is known in the A. lycopodifolia group of species, which Pedley (1987) suggested as possible relatives, e.g., A. lycopodifolia Cunn. ex Hook. and A. hippuroides Heward ex Benth., as well as in other unrelated tropical species

All measurements are from herbarium specimens unless otherwise indicated. The un-numbered taxa in the following key are not treated herein and are included only to indicate relationships.

Key to taxa of A. deltoidea group

1. Most phyllodes broadest below the middle, ovate to ovate-elliptic

 Phyllodes mostly 5-10 mm long, inequilaterally ovate, aeuminate, pungent, gland often extending beyond phyllode margin in tooth-like projection; seeds longitudinal in pods
 Phyllodes 15-16 mm long, inequilaterally elliptic to elliptic-ovate, acute, not pungent, gland not extending beyond phyllode margin; seeds transverse
 Most phyllodes broadest at or above the middle
3. Branchlets villose, hairs erisped, none gland-tipped; phyllodes broadly obdeltate
3. Branchlets other than villose, gland-tipped hairs always present; phyllodes of other shapes
4. Calyx and corolla regularly 5-merous
5. Branchlets with long, gland-tipped hairs and shorter, antrorsely curved hairs
Branchlets glandular-puberulous, hairs very short and patent sometimes with longer hairs intermixed
 Phyllodes 4-6 mm wide, inequilaterally elliptic or obdeltate
 Phyllodes 1.5-2 mm wide, inequilaterally oblong-oblanceolate, the margin between gland and apex strongly rounded
4. Calyx with up to 11 acuminate lobes, eorolla 7- or 8-lobed A. stipulosa

1. Acacia adenogonia (Pedley) Cowan & Maslin, comb. nov. (Figure 1, O-S)

Basionym: Racosperma adenogonium Pedley, Austrobaileya 2(4): 316 (1987), based on the following.

A. deltoidea Cunn. ex Don var.? pungens Benth., London J. Bot. 1: 333 (1842). Type: Greville Island, Western Australia, A. Cunningham s.n. (holo: K; iso: BM (probably), PERTH — fragment ex K).

Illustration. L. Pedley, loc. cit., p. 317, Figure 1, E-1 (1987).

Erect to sprawling *shrubs* 1-2 m tall, spreading to 3 m. *Bark* smooth, dark red-brown with many pale lenticels. *Branchlets* terete, eaneseent-villose, scattered shorter gland-tipped hairs sometimes intermixed. *Stipules* persistent, subulate, 2.5-6.5 mm long, united to 1/3 length, eurving upwardly, rigid, eiliolate, small subulate lobes sometimes present between primary ones. *Phyllodes* inequilaterally ovate to laneeolate, acuminate-pungent, sessile to subsessile, (3-)5-10(-15) mm long, 1.5-4.5 mm wide, eoriaeeous, erowded-imbricate, patent to inclined, subglabrous to villose,

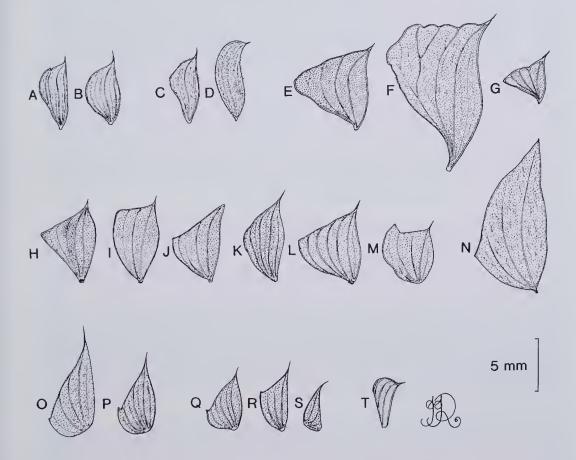


Figure 1. Some variation in phyllodes of taxa comprising the A. deltoidea alliance. A-B - A. stipulosa; C-D - A. froggattii; E-G - A. sublanata; H-M - A. deltoidea subsp. deltoidea; N - A. deltoidea subsp. ampla; O-P - Gibb River form of A. adenogonia; Q-S - coastal, typical form of A. adenogonia; T - A. vincentii. Phyllodes in most cases from several collections to illustrate intra- and inter-taxon variation in size and form; phyllode of A. vincentii from the type. All drawn at about 2x

scattered, short gland-tipped hairs sometimes present; nerves 3 or 4 on each phyllode face; gland 1, situated on upper margin of phyllodes, often projecting in short tube beyond phyllode-margin. *Peduncles* 7.5-14 mm long, solitary, villose, basally ebracteate, occasionally bracteate above middle; heads globular, 4-6 mm diam., 60-92-flowered; bracteoles exserted in bud, linear to narrowly lanceolate, acuminate, ciliate. *Flowers* 5-merous. *Sepals* less than 1/2 corolla-length, 1/2-united, ciliolate, lobes linear from ciliolate basal eup. *Petals* 3/4-united, lobes ovate, puberulous. *Filaments* united irregularly in fascicles at the base. *Legumes* linear, raised over and irregularly slightly constricted between seeds, 35-85 mm long, 5-6.5 mm wide, thin-coriaceous, curved, canescent-puberulous with intermixed longer, gland-tipped hairs. *Seeds* longitudinal, elliptic-oblong, 6-6.5 mm long, 3.5 mm wide, compressed, dull brown-black; pleurogram oblong, closed; aril apical.

Other specimens examined. WESTERN AUSTRALIA: Gibb River Road, 1.5 km W of Lennard River Gorge turn-off, G.W. Carr 4115 & A.C. Beauglehole 47893 (BR1, CANB, K, MEL, PERTH); Napier Broome Bay, 7 km S of West Bay, E.A. Chesterfield 313 with S.J. Forbes & J.H. Willis (PERTH); Pim Hill, E.A. Chesterfield 385 (PERTH); [Prince] Regent River, Voyage of Bathhurst in 1821-2, A. Cunningham 323 (PERTH, photograph of Herb. BM specimen); "Naturalist Island" in Prince Frederick Harbour at mouth of Hunter River, M. Evans 9 (PERTH); 0.5 km N of Pim Hill between Napier Broome Bay and Vansittart Bay, 17 km NNW of Kalumburu Mission, S.J. Forbes 2176 with J.H. Willis (PERTH); Plain Creek near Beverley Springs Homestead, NE of Derby, K.F. Kenneally 1988 (PERTH); "Naturalist Island" in Prince Frederick Harbour, W of entrance to Hunter River, K.F. Kenneally 9926 (PERTH); Gibb River Road, c. 17 miles [27.4 km] N from turnoff to Mt House Homestead, 24 July 1974, J.H. Willis & A.C. Beauglehole s.n. NSW, PERTH 00709255); Augustus Island, Bonaparte Archipelago, P.G. Wilson 10702 (PERTH) and 18 May 1972, P.G. Wilson s.n. (PERTH 00709263); Uwins Island, Brunswick Bay, P.G. Wilson 11445 (PERTH).

Distribution. Northern Western Australia in north-west and southern extremity of Gardner Botanical District and north central Fitzgerald Botanical District (1:250,000 maps D51-16, D52-9 and E51-4, 8). Occurs in scattered populations in West Kimberley, in the Bonaparte Archipelago and Napier Broome Bay areas and inland at Kimberley Downs Station, Beverley Springs Station and Phillips Range. The available material appears to indicate two populations comprising the species, one along the north coast of Western Australia and the nearby offshore islands, the other along the Gibb River road in the area of Beverley Springs Homestead, about 150 km southward.

Habitat. Grows on sandy soil usually on sandstone in woodland.

Flowering and fruiting periods. Flowering specimens have been collected between May and August, and legumes with mature seeds have been collected in July and August from plants still in flower.

Conservation status. The wide distribution of this species suggests that it is probably neither rare nor endangered.

Affinities. Superficially, *A. adenogonia* appears very similar to *A. deltoidea* and they are clearly related but *A. adenogonia* has phyllodes that are widest below their middle, different branchlet pubescence (hairs shorter and mostly gland-tipped in *A. deltoidea*; villose with only scattered gland-tipped hairs in *A. adenogonia*), often exserted phyllode glands and narrower legumes with longitudinally oriented seeds. It is closer to *A. froggattii* and *A. sublanata* with respect to orientation of the seeds in the pods. Bentham described it as a variety of *A. deltoidea* questionably, saying it might represent a distinct species.

Variation. The southern population has somewhat larger phyllodes which are villose, rather than obscurely puberulous as in the coastal form. We have not recognized infraspecific taxa largely because collections from the region between the two populations are infrequent and we expect future collecting to show that these are extremes in a north to south cline, unworthy of formal recognition.

2. Acacia deltoidea Cunn. ex Don, Gen. Hist. 2: 401 (1832).

Type: Montague Sound, Western Australia, 1820, *A. Cunningham* 293 (lecto: BM, fide L. Pedley, Austrobaileya 2(4): 315 (1987); iso: K, US).

Racosperma deltoideum (Cunn. ex Don) Pedley, Austrobaileya 2(4): 315 (1987).

Illustrations. F. Mueller, leonogr. Austral. Acacia, dee. 7, pl. [1] (1887), as A. stipulosa; J.H. Maiden, J. & Proc. Roy. Soc. New South Wales 53, pl. 13, figs. 7-17 (1920); L. Pedley, loe. eit., p. 319, Figure 2, J-N (1987).

Shrubs 1.5-3 m tall. Bark grey to dark brown, fissured. Branchlets glandular puberulous with intermixed longer hairs, sometimes \pm resinous. Stipules persistent, subulate, partly united, 1.5-4 mm long, upwardly curving, ciliolate or glandular ciliolate. Phyllodes subsessile, inequilaterally cuneate, elliptic, ovate or broadly obdeltate, with a gland-bearing angle on the upper margin, \pm mueronate-pungent, 6-16 mm long, 4-7 mm wide, thinly eoriaceous to coriaceous, congested, imbricate, patent to ascending, glabrous or \pm glandular puberulous on faces, and generally on margins, bright green; 3 or 4 longitudinal main nerves on each phyllode face inconspieuous to prominulous; gland 1, situated on upper margin of phyllode, rarely projecting beyond margin. Peduncles (6-)10-25 mm long, solitary, glandular puberulous, basally ebracteate, rarely with a median peduncular braet; heads globular, dark golden, 5-6 mm diam., (30-)56-73-flowered, compact; bracteoles \pm exserted in bud, spathulate with blade lanceolate and long-acuminate. Flowers 5-merous. Sepals 1/2-2/3 eorolla length, 1/3-1/2-united, lobes linear, glandular-puberulous apically. Petals 2/3-3/4-united, lobes ovate. Stanens free. Legumes oblong, slightly raised over but not constricted between seeds, 28-42 mm long, 9-12 mm wide, thinly eoriaceous, straight, obliquely reticulate-nerved, base rounded, apex rostriform. Seeds obliquely oriented, 5 mm long, 2.5 mm wide, compressed, dull dark-brown; pleurogram closed; aril apical.

2a. Acacia deltoidea Cunn. ex Don subsp. deltoidea. (Figure 1, H-M).

Phyllodes coriaceous, inequilaterally cuncate, elliptic or triangular, excentrically mucronate-pungent, 6-8.5 mm long, 4-6 mm wide, glandular-puberulous, often obscurely. *Peduncles* 10-12 mm long, glandular-puberulous, rarely with a bract about the middle; bracteoles \pm exserted in bud.

Other specimens examined. WESTERN AUSTRALIA: 3.7 km NW of Mt Daglish, J.J. Alford 558 (PERTH); near Manning Gorge, Mt Barnett Station, I. Cowie 330 (PERTH); Fitzroy River, 1879, A. Forrest s.n. (NSW, PERTH 00698172); creck entering inlet of Talbot Bay, 23 km SE of Cockatoo Island, P.A. Fryxell & L.A. Craven 3893 (CANB, PERTH); Plain Crcck, c. 10 km W of Beverley Springs Homestead, A.S. George 12228 (PERTH); Manning Gorge, A.S. George 15176 (PERTH); above the headwaters of the Helby River, T.G. Hartley 14819 (PERTH); Prince Regent River Reserve, K.F. Kenneally 2081 (K, MEL, PERTH); Euro Gorge, Drysdale River National Park, K.F. Kenneally 4363 (BR1, PERTH, TLF); Steep Island off Raft Point at entrance to Doubtful Bay, K.F. Kenneally 9681 (BR1, K, PERTH); 5.7 km NW of Gibb River-Kalumburu Road intersection, travelling along old Mitehell River Station Road, B.L. Koch 568 (CANB, K, PERTH); Boomerang Bay, Bigge Island, N.G. Marchant 72/116 (PERTH); High Cliffy Islands, E of Montgomery Island, 24 May 1987, L.M. Marsh s. n. (PERTH 00870021); Galvans Gorge, 14.8 km S of Barnett River on Gibb River - Derby road, J.G. & M.H. Simmons 1901 (PERTH); Stewart River valley, e. 82 km NNE of Derby, 13 km NNW of "Kimbolton" Homestead, I.R. Telford 6310 & G. Butler (PERTH).

Distribution. Northern Western Australia through most of the Gardner Botanical District and adjoining north-west part of the Fitzgerald Botanical District (1:250,000 maps D51-12, 15, 16; D52-10, 13; and E51-3, 4, 8). Oecurs in scattered populations in the Kimberley in Buccaneer and Bonaparte Archipelago areas and near Cambridge Gulf extending inland to Mt Barnett and Drysdale River National Park. The *A. Forrest* eollection cited above extends the range southward;

the precise locality is not known but from his journal we deduce the collection was made in grid-cell E51-8, not actually on the Fitzroy River but in its general area.

Habitat. Grows in sandy soil usually on sandstone in open scrub and, where the soil is deeper, in woodland.

Flowering and fruiting periods. Flowering specimens have been collected in March and between May and August; legumes with mature seeds have been collected in May, June and August from plants still in flower.

Conservation status. Not considered rare or endangered.

2b. Acacia deltoidea Cunn. ex Don subsp. ampla Cowan & Maslin, subsp. nov. (Figure 1, N).

Phyllodia firme chartacea, inaequilateraliter clliptica ad clliptico-ovata, contracto-acuta, mucronata, 15-16 mm longa, 5.5-7 mm lata. *Pedunculi* 18-25 mm longi, glandulari-puberuli, plerumque supra medium bracteam ferenti, bracteolis non exsertis in alabastro maturo.

Typus: Lawley R. gorge, Western Australia, 29 July 1921, C.A. Gardner 996 (holo: PERTH; iso: NSW, PERTH - C.A. Gardner "1496").

Phyllodes thinly eoriaceous, inequilaterally elliptic to elliptic-ovate, acute, mucronate, 15-16 mm long, 5.5-7 mm wide. *Peduncles* 18-25 mm long, glandular-puberulous, usually with a narrowly lanceolate bract above its middle; bracteoles not exserted in bud.

Other specimens examined. WESTERN AUSTRALIA: base of Bougainville Peninsula on E shore of Admiralty Gulf, P.A. Fryxell, L.A. Craven & J. McD. Stewart 4782 (CANB, PERTH).

Distribution. Northern Western Australia in northern part of the Gardner Botanical District (1:250,00 maps D51-12 and D52-9). Known only from two localities separated by 60 km in the Admiralty Gulf area.

Habitat. Grows in woodland on sandstone.

Flowering and fruiting periods. Flowering specimens have been collected in June (with legumes with sub-mature seeds) and in July.

Conservation status. 2K, following the criteria of Briggs & Leigh (1988). This is a poorly known taxon that may be rare, but the area is very poorly collected and difficult of access.

Discussion. The differences separating subsp. *ampla* from the typical subspecies are mostly quantitative but they combine to produce quite a different appearing plant. Pedley (1987) considered it to be only a large-phyllode form of this species but it is so different, especially in phyllode form and size, that we prefer recognizing it as a subspecies, thereby calling it to the attention of future monographers.

Note. Gardner's collection numbers 1496 and 996 do refer to the same collection, as Pedley (1987) presumed; the first is the Western Australian Forest Department number, the second Gardner's own herbarium number.

Etymology. The subspecies name refers to the size of the phyllodes which are much larger than those of the typical subspecies.

Frutex 3 m altus, ramis longis, areuatis. *Stipulae* persistentes, setaceae, eonnatae basaliter, 2-2.5 mm longae, glandulari-puberuli sursum. *Phyllodia* inaequilateraliter oblongo-oblanceolata, apiee mucronato-pungenti, circa lateralibus ad axem longum, 4.5-5 mm longa, 1.5-2 mm lata, ascendentia ad erecta, parce puberula. *Pedunculi* 9-9.5 mm longi, solitarii; capitulae oblongoideae, circa 5.5 mm diametro, 41-floribus, bracteolis longo-exsertisin alabastris maturis. *Flores* pentameri, sepalis petalis 3/4 longioribus quam 1/2-connata corolla, eonnatis, lobis linearibus, ciliolatis. *Legumen* anguste oblongum, marginibus erenatis, 25-55 mm longum, 5-10 mm latum, areuatum, dense glandulo-puberulum.

Typus: 6 miles NE of F. B./33 [c. 10 km WSW of Mt Blythe], Edkins Range, West Kimberley Region, Western Australia, Aug. 1905, *W.V. Fitzgerald* 1421 (holo: NSW 104428; iso: NSW, PERTH).

Illustration: L. Pedley, Austrobaileya 2(4): 317, Figure 1, J, K (1987).

Shrubs 3 m tall with long, arehing branches. Branchlets terete, glandular-puberulous, slender. Stipules persistent, setaceous, united basally, often a setaeeous lobe on each stipule between primary lobes, 2-2.5 mm long, curved upwardly, not rigid, sparingly glandular-puberulous to glabrous. Phyllodes inequilaterally oblong-oblanceolate, upper margin conspicuously rounded between apex and gland, apex mucronate-pungent and \pm perpendicular to long axis of phyllode, pulvinus 0.3-0.4 mm long, blades 4.5-5 mm long, 1.5-2 mm wide, coriaceous, ascending to ereet, sparingly puberulous; 2 or 3 nerves on each phyllode face prominulous; gland 1, minute, situated on upper margin above middle of phyllode. Peduacles 9-9.5 mm long, solitary, ebracteate throughout, puberulous with many hairs gland-tipped; heads oblongoid, c. 5.5 mm diam., 41-flowered; bratecoles long-exserted in bud, spathulate with blade lanceolate, acuminate, puberulous and ciliolate. Flowers 5-merous. Sepals 3/4 length of petals, 1/2-united, linear lobes and margin of basal cup ciliolate. Petals 1/2-united, lobes puberulous. Stamen filaments free. Legumes narrowly oblong, not constricted between seeds, one or both margins crenate, 25-55 mm long, 5-10 mm wide, curved, obliquely reticulate transversely, densely glandular puberulous. Seeds (immature) oblique, black, shiny; pleurogram U-shaped, 1/2 as long as seed; aril small, apieal.

Distribution. Northern Western Australia in the south-west of the Gardner Botanical District (1:250,000 map E51-4). Known only by the type collection from the Edkins Range, West Kimberley.

Habitat. Collected from a sandstone plateau. No other data available.

Flowering and fruiting periods. Flowering specimens were collected in August along with immature legumes.

Conservation status. 1X, using the criteria of Briggs & Leigh (1988) but its status cannot be reliably determined until more information is available.

Affinities. The type collection of A. vincentii has been variously treated: Fitzgerald himself ealled it A. stipulosa on his labels; then Maiden (1920) treated it as A. deltoidea (incorrectly and inexplicably, citing April 1905 as the collecting date, although Fitzgerald gave August as the date in his field diary), at least partly because he considered A. stipulosa to be conspecific with A. deltoidea; finally, Pedley (1987) viewed the material of the new species as an "aberrant individual" of A. deltoidea. While related to A. deltoidea, A. adenogonia and A. froggattii, the new species is really quite distinct. Its obliquely transverse seeds and glandular-puberulous vegetative parts relate it most closely to A. deltoidea subsp. deltoidea. From all elements of the "A. deltoidea group", A. vincentii differs in its setose stipules, the shape and size of the phyllodes, its

long-exserted bracteoles in bud, oblongoid flower heads and in its legume having one or both margins crenate.

The new species is described, admittedly on less than the sort of complete data one hopes to have at hand when describing new taxa, because it is very distinct and a name is needed for it in the account of the Kimberley flora being prepared at PERTH, as well as for the Flora of Australia.

Note. The type locality data have been augumented beyond those on the label itself, by notes from Fitzgerald's diary/field book of the Kimberley Trigonometric Expedition of 1905.

Etymology. This species is named for the collector of the only known material, William Vincent Fitzgerald, to perpetuate the memory of a keen field observer and one of Western Australia's most respected early taxonomists.

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